

The Hour



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11 W. 42nd St., New York
Longacre 5-2937-8
Cable Address: ACANP

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Number 43

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FASCIST GILBERT IS SUED IN CHICAGO FOR ASSAULT AND BATTERY

Found Guilty on Criminal Charge -- Civil Suit for \$50,000 Damages Pending -- Beat Up a Woman in Rage Over Christian Frontists' Case

On April 17, 1940, before Judge Jay A. Schiller in the Municipal Court of Chicago, wealthy and socially prominent Dudley Pierrepont Gilbert was tried on a charge of assault and battery. Simultaneously with this criminal charge, a civil suit for damages amounting to \$50,000 was filed on behalf of one Miss Judith Thompson against Gilbert in the Circuit Court of Cook County based on the assault and battery charge. The civil suit is still pending.

This is the well-known fascist Gilbert who, in May, 1939, in his testimony before the Dies Committee, described a fantastic "Jewish plot" to overthrow the United States Government, and who admitted making large contributions to various "patriotic" organizations, at least one of which -- the American Nationalists of New York -- he claimed to have founded four years earlier. Aged 42 and feeling youngish, he nevertheless likes to be known among his fascist associates as "Uncle Dudley."

How the Trouble Started

The background of the trouble, into which Gilbert has recently run in Chicago, is as follows:

During the month of November, 1939, while in a Chicago restaurant, Gilbert became acquainted with the young lady named Judith Thompson. Despite the fact that he was already married and had three children, he began a whirlwind courtship of Miss Thompson. He purchased a diamond engagement ring for her, and a few days later presented her with a platinum "wedding" ring. He then took Miss Thompson on a honeymoon.

The trouble started one day at a hotel's bar when Gilbert and Miss Thompson were having drinks and when a group of visitors entered whom Gilbert recognized as Jews. Cursing in protest against admission of Jews, Gilbert became infuriated, broke some glassware at the bar, started smashing furniture, and at length pulled Miss Thompson out of the "unclean" place. On another occasion, while at a bowling alley, he remarked to her that he could not understand why people

should waste their time bowling when they could be practicing the use of bayonets. On March 22 Gilbert let his temper fly once more, again in connection with his peculiar politics, but far more seriously than on previous occasions.

Gilbert's "Battle"

On that date, Gilbert picked up a copy of Look containing an article and pictures on the case of the 17 Christian Frontists of Brooklyn charged with a plot to overthrow the United States Government. On reading the article, Gilbert became very angry. He cursed in vile language at what he said was "a conspiracy" on the part of the United States Government to "convict innocent men," those 17 Frontists whom Gilbert described as part of "a noble and worthwhile cause."

Miss Thompson tried to quiet him, but Gilbert became even more aroused. Pronouncing her name Judith as "Jewdith," he demanded that she take "the Jew" out of her name. He became more abusive in his talk, and, as she opened the door to leave, Gilbert seized her, beat her with his fists, struck her on the face, and knocked her to the floor. When she got up, grabbed the telephone and called for help, he again started to pound her, threw her to the floor and began to choke her, banging her head on the floor. A porter arrived but was too frightened to enter. At last, realizing what he had done, Gilbert dashed some ice water on the woman's face. Her injuries were serious enough for her to spend two days in a hospital.

Gilbert in Court

A warrant was sworn out for Gilbert's arrest, but he succeeded in making a bond of one thousand dollars. He then started a campaign of intimidation against Miss Thompson, but without any effect, and on April 17 the criminal case was tried. After a full hearing he was found guilty of assault and battery, and a minimum fine of three dollars provided by the statutes was assessed against him. It is significant that the presiding judge offered to free Gilbert if he would submit to an examination by the court psychiatrist, but Gilbert declined the offer.

Gilbert claims the whole matter is "a plot" against him on the part of his political enemies. Miss Thompson's civil suit against him for \$50,000, now pending, promises revelations of the habits of the wealthy fascist.

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SIR OSWALD MOSLEY BOOSTS "NAZI ATMOSPHERE"

While Britain is at war with Nazi Germany, Sir Oswald Mosley's fascist Action of London, for March 21, 1940, runs this advertisement: "Live a country life in a National-Socialist atmosphere; good accommodation offered in residential farm house, on Norfolk-Suffolk borders to members of British Union; terms exceptional."

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THE HOUR DISCLOSED NAZI "TROJAN HORSE" IN SCANDINAVIA LAST JULY

Reader Recalls Our News-Story -- "You Scooped the World"

On April 18, Thomas C. Jones of the Geographical Publishing Company of Chicago wrote to the editor of The Hour as follows: "I recall one of the back issues of The Hour in which your correspondent in Norway or Sweden told about the alarming number of Germans who were filtering into the country to take jobs and various menial occupations who were, at the same time, able to drive expensive cars. In view of the recent 'sell-out' of Norway, I think that the information you put out on that subject scoop the world."

Text of The Hour's Advance Information

The news-story, which Mr. Jones recalls, appeared in The Hour for July 15, 1939. Its headlines read: "German Barons as Swedish Milkmen -- Hitler Sends Disguised Agents to Northern Countries -- They 'Work' on Estates Near Important Airdromes." It came from our Stockholm correspondent, and below we give a condensed summary of the text:

"German milkers are to be found at almost all large estates near Stockholm; also at Spanga, where one of Sweden's largest radio stations is situated; as well as at Barkaby, an important airdrome; and at a number of other places of more or less significance from the military viewpoint.

"An odd fact is that many of these farm-hands from the Reich possess good cameras, splendid radios, and expensive cars. Recently, one such German milker, Emil Buehlmann, crashed while driving his automobile, badly wrecking the car in a ditch. The very next day he was driving another car, a brand-new Opel. Since these Germans are supposed to be 'very cheap labor' and ostensibly on these grounds have displaced many Swedish farm women who used to do all the milking around here, the newcomers' sumptuous automobiles give rise to much suspicion. There is an obvious divergence between the wages of the German milkers and the grand manner of their living.

"A first-hand description of these strange farm-hands has been given for The Hour by a Stockholm laborer who worked in close proximity with one of the German milkers: 'During our frequent talks I came to know some of his personal history. He told me that the German press service had noticed the shortage of farm laborers in Scandinavian countries, and the Nazis decided to use this lack as an easy door for their spies and propagandists. A special course was started to teach these agents how to milk cows and do other farm work. On graduating some were sent to Sweden others to Denmark. He showed me his papers which proved that besides being a baron he was also an officer in the German army and had a diploma from a commercial university. On one occasion he confided to me that he did not trust the Swedish postal

system with his letters but always sent them through the German consulate in Stockholm. One thing stood out above all: the baron-milkman owned a better radio set than any I have ever seen.'

"The Germans on the different estates maintain close relations with one another. On special occasions they come together for conferences. Some of their employers must know their identity. The landlords, who shelter them, arranged a peculiar working day for these disguised agents of Hitler: the men are free between 9 a. m. and 3 p. m., and they are using this time for their far-reaching excursions in the provinces."

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CURTISS FOR CARTER

No matter what changes take place in national or international affairs, native fascists remain constant in their admiration for the well-known columnist and news-commentator Boake Carter. A current example of this faithfulness appears in a recent issue of Henry George Curtiss' anti-democratic American Bulletin. One entire page of the bulletin's five is devoted to the subject of Boake Carter. The page is entitled "Our Side."

After an affectionate recital of the biography of the British-born columnist, the bulletin observes that he continues to fill an essential role in American journalism: "Mr. Carter ... still manages to maintain a clear, historical view of the European conflict in his daily column for the Hearst chain." The eulogy concludes with the observation that, in spite of Carter's contribution to U. S. affairs, the former General Foods' commentator has been persecuted for some time because of his failure to toe "the Baruch-Frankfurter party line."

This is not the only instance of Boake Carter's name being used for anti-Semitic ends. A two-page quotation from Carter prefaces a violently anti-Jewish booklet, dedicated to Major-General Van Horn Moseley, that is now being distributed throughout the country (see The Hour for January 27, 1940). Similarly, the present trial of the Christian Front plotters brings to mind a meeting that took place in New York City on May 24, 1939. Advance publicity described the occasion as a "Great Pro-American Mass Meeting." Among those slated to speak were Joseph McWilliams, Christian Mobilizer Chieftain, and Boake Carter, "Radio's Fearless News Editor." The meeting, it is worth remembering, was sponsored by "The Christian Front, and twelve other Patriotic Organizations."

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KLAN'S NIGHT-GOWNS

We learn that the recent order of the Klan's Imperial Wizard James A. Colescott, regulating the material and design of Klansmen's robes and hoods, was in part due to the desire of the Klan's higher-ups to stop members from making their night-riding clothes at home and to boost the business of the order's official factory in Georgia producing those night-gowns on a wholesale basis.

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Through the Hourglass

BY MICHAEL SAYERS

THE "AMERICANISM" OF BOB REYNOLDS

Senator Robert Reynolds of North Carolina is one of those "one hundred per cent Americans" who can scarcely wait for the hoped-for day when he will be able to lock up all our aliens in concentration camps. His newspaper, The American Vindicator, is a telltale specimen of our native fascist journalism. William Dudley Pelley thinks Senator Reynolds is a fine fellow, indeed. In the April 14 issue of Pelley's crackpot fascist sheet, Liberation, two whole columns are dedicated to the good work which the Senator from North Carolina is carrying on "in exposing the alien menace." Pelley agrees with Reynolds that all aliens should be fingerprinted, photographed, registered, and whatnot; and then, to make the point of his comment entirely clear even to the most obtuse Reynolds and Pelley fan, Pelley adds: "Since the Jews consider themselves citizens of the Jewish nation, this will give them the opportunity to stand up and be counted as such."

Lately, under the pressure of political and public protest, Reynolds has been steering clear of too open Jew baiting. For example, in the last issue of his The American Vindicator, he devotes one full page to the "refugee problem," which, according to Reynolds, has become U. S. Burden No. 1. The headlines in this page (and there are many of them) use the terms "Jew" and "refugee" interchangeably. Thus subtly the point is made that the problem of the refugee is a purely Jewish problem, and, to continue the Reynolds' line of reasoning, that the Jewish people are America's prime burden.

Looking around for new game, Reynolds recently discovered the Mexicans. The Mexicans made him mad. The Mexicans are really no better than the Jews. The Mexicans aren't "one hundred per cent Americans." And what's more, there are a million of them in this country and, as Reynolds puts it, many of them have "conveniently" become American citizens "to be eligible for relief." (The audacity of these Mexicans, even wanting to eat!) Mexicans "displace American labor and they add to our unemployment rolls." At which point Pelley again chimes in approvingly, "There seems to be plenty of the taxpayers' money for all foreigners and foreign enterprises, but mighty little left for deserving Americans."

And so two more bills are introduced by the indefatigable Reynolds in Congress "for the maintenance of peace and the protection of the U. S.," as he nicely puts it. The gist of the new Reynolds' bills is, first, the old alien-baiting theme of "limitation of immigration," and, secondly, much more exciting, a proposal that "all Mexican aliens in excess of Americans in Mexico ... shall be deported within one year after the date of the enactment of this legislation."

The odd thing about all this "Mexican" chatter from Reynolds is that he has been at the same time vociferously advocating that the United States take over control of Mexico and incorporate it into the United States. Apparently the Senator's mind works on fixed lines. His argument seems to be that all Mexicans must be driven out of the country; and then, since that would mean that there would be no Mexicans left to persecute, it will be necessary to bring them all back again, oil and all.

A Senator of the United States is nothing to laugh about; but the Honorable Robert R. Reynolds is a bit of a joke. As things go, however, in this ominous atmosphere nowadays, the joke is apt to be on us.

May 4, 1940

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